

Message Text

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46

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 NEA-14 IO-14 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00

USIE-00 INRE-00 SAM-01 SAJ-01 OMB-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01

PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 ACDA-19 AID-20 TRSE-00 DRC-01 /175 W

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O 081240Z AUG 74

FM AMEMBASSY CONAKRY

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0018

INFO AMEMBASSY LISBON IMMEDIATE

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

USINT ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

AMCONSUL LUANDA

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION NATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L CONAKRY 1203

MOSCOW FOR AMB TODMAN

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS : PFOR GV PU

SUBJECC PAIGC SEC GEN PEREIRA OUTLINES CURRENT POSITION

REF: LISBON 3336

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1. SUMMARY: PAIGC SEC GEN PEREIRA STATED (1) THAT PAIGC HAD NOT

YET RECEIVED OFFICIAL GOP REQUEST TO RESUME TALKS ON "TRANSFER OF POWER" AND (2) THAT AUGUST 4 COMMUNIQUE REMOVED OBSTACLE OF CAPE VERDE ISLANDS, SINCE IN ANY CASE PAIGC "HAD NEVER" ENVISAGED SAME DEVELOPMENT FOR CAPE VERDE AND GUINEA BISSAU. END SUMMARY.

2. CHARGE AND EMBOFF CALLED AT BUSTLING, ACTIVE PAIGC HEAD-QUARTERS EVENING AUGUST 7 AND AS ALWAYS WERE GREETED WARMLY. AFTER INITIAL CONVERSATION WITH LOWER PAIGC OFFICIAL, SECGEN ARISTIDES PEREIRA JOINED CONVERSATION, LOOKING TIRED. WE ASKED HOW MATTERS STOOD AFTER MOST RECENT DEVELOPMENTS -- SECGEN WALDHEIM'S VISIT TO LISBON ESPECIALLY. WE SAID THAT REPORTING FROM AMERICAN OFFICIALS IN CONTACT WITH PORTUGUESE AND GOP PUBLIC STATEMENTS INDICATED THAT GOP WISHED RESUME TALKS WITH PAIGC TO EFFECT TRANSFER OF POWER AND WAS NOW WAITING FOR PAIGC RESPONSE.

3. PEREIRA MADE FOLLOWING POINTS, PARTLY IN RESPONSE TO FURTHER QUESTIONS POSED.

4. HE SAID FIRST OF ALL THAT PAIGC HAD NOT, REPEAT NOT, RECEIVED OFFICIAL REQUEST FROM PORTUGUESE GOVERNMENT TO RESUME NEGOTIATIONS. WHEN QUESTIONED FURTHER, HE SAID PAIGC WOULD BE READY RESPOND FAVORABLY WHEN REQUEST RECEIVED.

5. WE ASKED SPECIFICALLY ABOUT STATUS OF CAPE VERDE ISLANDS. CHARGE RECALLED PREVIOUS CONVERSATIONS WITH PEREIRA (CONAKRY 0900) IN WHICH LATTER HAD STATED PRINCIPAL STUMBLING BLOCK WAS PORTUGAL'S FAILURE TO RECOGNIZE "RIGHT OF INDEPENDENCE" FOR ISLANDS AND OTHER PORTUGUESE TERRITORIES. CHARGE SAID THIS NOW SEEMED RESOLVED BY AUGUST 4 COMMUNIQUE. PEREIRA REPLIED THAT THIS WAS TRUE. PORTUGAL'S RECOGNITION OF "RIGHT OF INDEPENDENCE" FOR CAPE VERDE ISLANDS WAS ALL THAT PAIGC ASKED AND GOP HAD NOW DONE THIS. CHARGE CONTINUED THAT IT WAS HIS UNDERSTANDING, THEN, THAT QUESTION OF CAPE VERDE ISLANDS WAS NO LONGER ISSUE OF CONTENTION BETWEEN GOP AND PAIGC. PEREIRA SPECIFICALLY CONFIRMED THIS UNDERSTANDING.

6. PEREIRA THEN VOLUNTEERED FURTHER VIEWS ON CAPE VERDE QUESTION. HE SAID THAT PAIGC HAD NEVER ENVISAGED SAME DEVELOPMENT IN CAPE VERDE ISLANDS AS GUINEA-BISSAU OR TOTAL UNION WITH IT. THERE WERE MANY DIFFERENCES, INCLUDING CULTURAL DIFFERENCES. PEREIRA
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WENT SO FAR TO SAY THAT IF CAPE VERDIANS SHOULD OPT FOR SOME COURSE OTHER THAN INDEPENDENCE OR UNION WITH GUINEA-BISSAU, PAIGC COULD ONLY ACCEPT DECISION.

7. CHARGE THEN SPECIFICALLY ASKED ABOUT PAIGC POSITION ON APPLICATION FOR UN MEMBERSHIP, NOTING PORTUGUESE STATEMENT IN AUGUST 4 COMMUNIQUE THAT GOP READY TO SUPPORT APPLICATION, BUT WISHED TO EFFECT TRANSFER OF POWERS FIRST. PEREIRA SMILED AND CONFIRMED

THAT THIS WAS CORRECT: "THEY WANT TO MAKE TRANSFER OF POWERS FIRST". CHARGE CONTINUED THAT USG OBVIOUSLY HOPED ALSO THAT UN MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION WOULD ARISE AT TIME WHEN USG WOULD ALSO BE ABLE TO SUPPORT IT. IT WOULD OBVIOUSLY BE EASIER FOR U.S. IF "TRANSFER OF POWERS" EFFECTED FIRST. PEREIRA SAID THAT HE RECOGNIZED THIS. HE THEN CONCLUDED WITH CLEAR STATEMENT THAT UN MEMBERSHIP WOULD NOT COME UP UNTIL AFTER "TRANSFER OF POWERS".

8. COMMENT: PEREIRA GAVE IMPRESSION THROUGHOUT INTERVIEW OF QUIET CONFIDENCE AND OF NOT BEING IN ANY HURRY TO PUSH "TRANSFER OF POWERS" TOO FAST. ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS HE REFERRED TO HIS VISIT TO "INTERIOR" (MEANING GUINEA-BISSAU ITSELF) AND NOTED THAT THINGS GOING VERY WELL AND THAT "PROCESS" ALREADY UNDER WAY.

9. THIS EMBASSY STRONGLY ENDORSES EMBASSY DAKAR'S SUGGESTION (DAKAR 4429) THAT DEPT PROVIDE US WITH CONTINGENCY INSTRUCTIONS INDICATING US REACTION TO BE VOICED WHEN GOP RECOGNIZES GUINEA-BISSAU. IN VIEW SPECULATION THAT PEREIRA MAY GO TO DAKAR TODAY (AUGUST 8), "OFFICIAL REQUEST" FROM GOP TO RESUME TALKS MAY BE WAITING FOR HIM THERE.

10. PEREIRA AND HIS PAIGC COLLEAGUES HAVE BEEN CONTINUALLY FRIENDLY WITH US OFFICIALS AND OPEN TO CONTACTS. THESE PEOPLE ARE STILL ACCESSIBLE IN CONAKRY AND DAKAR, BUT LESS AND LESS SO AS THEY SPEND MORE TIME IN GUINEA-BISSAU ITSELF. TIME MAY SOON -- PERHAPS VERY SOON -- COME WHEN CONTINUED MEETINGS WITH THEM WILL HAVE TO BE IN THEIR CAPITAL OF BISSAU. IT SEEMS TO US THAT WHATEVER GESTURES WE CAN MAKE AT THIS POINT MAY MAKE FUTURE OFFICIAL CONTACTS IN BISSAU MUCH EASIER.

11. QUESTION OF GUINEA-BISSAU UN MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION IS ANOTHER MATTER. RESUMED NEGOTIATIONS WITH PORTUGUESE IS SOME-CONFIDENTIAL

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THING THAT PAIGC CAN CONTROL. THEY HAVE LESS CONTROL OVER SECURITY COUNCIL VOTE ON UN MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION, WHICH ALREADY MADE AND CIRCULATED (ALTHOUGH WE NOTE PEREIRA'S "ASSURANCE" THAT QUESTION WILL NOT ARISE UNTIL AFTER TRANSFER OF POWERS EFFECTED). IF QUESTION DOES ARISE SOON -- I.E., BEFORE PORTUGUESE ARE READY TO SUPPORT APPLICATION -- WE RECOMMEND USG CONSIDER INFORMING PEREIRA AND PAIGC IN ADVANCE IF USG UNABLE TO SUPPORT APPLICATION; I.E., IF USG DECIDES TO ABSTAIN. ESPECIALLY IN VIEW LISBON'S STATEMENT THAT GOP WOULD "UNDERSTAND" US ABSTENTION, WE HOPE DEPT NO LONGER CONSIDERING NEGATIVE VOTE (VETO) OF APPLICATION, WHICH AT THIS ADVANCED STAGE WOULD APPEAR FROM THIS VANTAGE POINT UNJUSTIFIED AND CONTRARY TO US INTERESTS.

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